

American soil, we tread on ground made safer for us through the invaluable sacrifices of our servicemembers and their families.”

While we can never fully repay the debt of gratitude we owe our military families, we can do everything possible to lessen their burden and provide for their needs.

I encourage all Americans to take time this month and all year round to recognize and honor our military families for the countless contributions they make each and every day for our great Nation.

REMEMBERING CASEY RIBICOFF

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize and honor the life and legacy of Casey Ribicoff, an inspiration, role model and friend to me and so many others.

Casey Ribicoff was a living legend. She and Abe shared a love that was heartfelt and moving, and obvious to all who knew them. She brought laughter and elegance to every friendship, most especially to her partnership with Abe. Together they traveled the world and country, making new friendships and visiting old ones, all the while creating enough memories to last a lifetime.

Having served on the Abe Ribicoff Senate staff, I can attest to their extraordinary partnership in public service, her deep caring for the people of Connecticut, and her commitment to social justice. She regarded the Senate as a platform for advocacy and hard work on behalf of Connecticut and the public interest. She and Abe were truly a team.

Casey had an impressive energy and strength. She was constantly involved in good causes, leading to her appointment by Jimmy Carter to the board of the Kennedy Center, a position she proudly held for 20 years. A founder of the AIDS Care Center at the New York Presbyterian Hospital, Casey always found new ways to give back and help the community.

As a personal friend, which she was to Cynthia and me, she was endlessly loyal and generous, and she leaves a legacy of good work that will be remembered for decades to come. Casey was kind, generous and loving. She will live on in the friendships and family that she cherished. She will be sorely missed but never forgotten.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

GOODWILL INDUSTRIES OF NEW MEXICO

• Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the 70th anniversary of Goodwill Industries of New Mexico. Working in New Mexico communities since 1941, the organization has helped find work and provided training and development for countless needy New Mexicans.

The nonprofit organization provides essential skill development, career-building services, and work opportunities to residents facing serious employment barriers. This is an especially important service they provide considering the continuing difficulties facing many applicants in today's job market.

Despite high unemployment and a struggling economy, Goodwill Industries of New Mexico placed nearly 850 clients in public and private sector jobs last year. Many of these clients face challenges with various disabilities, homelessness, drug addiction, and traumatic brain injuries, among other barriers. And the impact of the organization's activities has been felt throughout the entire State. In 2010, Goodwill Industries served nearly 10,000 residents through 8 programs reaching all 33 counties. That is a tenfold increase from a decade ago.

Much of its funding is derived through its retail stores, with 87 cents of every dollar spent on programs and services. But last year alone, in addition to its retail sales, Goodwill Industries of New Mexico salvaged nearly 1,700 tons of textiles, 188 tons of shoes, recycled 536 tons of cardboard and paper, and kept nearly 35 tons of used electronics out of New Mexico landfills. The environmental impact of Goodwill's initiatives is making a positive difference as well.

The education and training programs provide intensified training to those in need at six training centers across the State. Their programs also help low-income seniors to market themselves and acquire skills to compete in today's job market and place individuals in subsidized jobs with a host agency with the goal of moving that employee into a permanent position within the community.

Its Pathways programs assist the near homeless and chronically homeless in obtaining access to housing and the opportunity to begin a new life through the power of work. Goodwill Industries' GoodGuides Mentoring Program pairs adults with at risk teens. Mentors provide structure and a supportive relationship with middle and high school-aged students. Goodwill volunteers work with teens to establish goals, build career plans, and work toward high school graduation to prepare for postsecondary training or college.

Traumatic brain injuries often leave patients confused and bewildered, struggling with simple day-to-day tasks. The caring staff in the TBI case management program assisted over 500 clients in crisis last year from imminent risk to their safety and health. I was also pleased to announce in July that this highly respected organization received over a \$½ million grant from the VA to prevent homelessness among New Mexican veterans and their families.

Mr. President, I join Goodwill Industries of New Mexico in celebrating its 70th anniversary, and I congratulate them on being one of my State's pre-

mier service providers advocating for the disabled, homeless, and unemployed.●

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT AND MARGARET PATRICELLI

• Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, today I wish to commend Robert and Margaret Patricelli, of Simsbury, CT, for their immense generosity and vision in establishing an institute that will promote and support important public service activities.

Public policy and service have played a central role in the Patricelli's careers and lives. Graduating from Wesleyan in 1961 and Harvard Law in 1965, Bob was selected as one of 15 people for the first White House Fellows Program. His participation helped shape him as someone who understands the value of public policy and government service. Both he and Margaret are always looking for ways to give back and inspire others.

Their passion for giving back and helping others is what moved them to start the Robert and Margaret Patricelli Family Foundation to bring a tangible reality to programs and projects that serve the greater good. What Bob and Margaret have done through their family's foundation is inspiring and moving—and will continue to serve the country, and the world, for generations to come. Their philanthropic and service activities have touched countless lives across the State, from the arts to science, hospitals to schools, and programs assisting low-income neighborhoods.

In May of this year, the foundation contributed substantially to Wesleyan University, establishing the Patricelli Center for Social Entrepreneurship. This center will support students seeking to establish programs and organizations, providing workshops, speakers and networking opportunities for students. It will help encourage and embolden students who are focused on becoming social entrepreneurs, as well as award grants to undergraduate students engaged in specific projects. The foundation's most recent contribution to Wesleyan is one more example of great caring and commitment that lead me to recognize Bob and Margaret for all that they have done for our State and country.

A role model and inspiration to all who value public service, I commend and thank Bob and Margaret Patricelli for their legacy of great work for Connecticut and the country.●

TRIBUTE TO JONATHAN M. TOPODAS

• Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I wish today to pay tribute to Jonathan M. Topodas, who will be retiring this month after a spectacular 38-year-career with Aetna, one of Connecticut's leading corporate citizens.

Jonathan joined Aetna's law department after graduating from Southern